

2024

MODOT YEAR IN REVIEW

Missouri Department of Transportation



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Record fiscal year 2025-2029 STIP approved

In July, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the FY2025-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), making available a record-setting \$14.6 billion of federal and state revenues for all modes of transportation. The program lists transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies, spanning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029. Of the \$14.6 billion, the STIP details \$10.7 billion in road and bridge construction contractor awards, averaging approximately \$2.1 billion per year and funding more than 1,400 projects over the next five years. The plan also includes additional funding from General Revenue that was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Mike Parson. Funding is allocated for improvements to interstates 70 and 44, fixing low volume roads in poor condition, and making improvements to bridges, airports and rail crossings. The five-year STIP, released for public review in June, also details maintenance improvements and upgrades to roads, corridors and bridges.

MoDOT also worked with regional planning partners statewide to develop this year's High-Priority Unfunded Needs list. The document prioritizes the \$4.4 billion in unfunded road and bridge needs and places them into three tiers with different amounts and estimates, providing direction for future STIP developments. The list is part of a broader, long-term unfunded needs list totaling \$11 billion in unfunded needs over 10 years.

Improve I-70 Program awards first contracts

MoDOT's Statewide Improve I-70 Program continues to make significant progress. In 2023, \$2.8 billion in General Revenue funds were allocated for the costs to add an additional lane in each direction on nearly 200 miles of Interstate 70 from Blue Springs to Wentzville. During 2024, the first two contracts in a series of contracts for I-70 were awarded. In January 2024, Missouri received a federal grant award of \$92.8 million. With these additional grant funds, specific enhancements for truck parking, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), work zone safety technology, and workforce development will enhance the efforts of adding an additional lane to Interstate 70.



Gov. Mike Parson and former and current Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioners ceremoniously break ground on the first Improve I-70 project in June in Columbia.

The first project of this historic investment in infrastructure, from Columbia to Kingdom City, was awarded in February 2024 to Millstone Weber and its designer, Jacobs, Inc. The project broke ground in Columbia in mid-June and began construction in July. This design-

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build contract is a \$405 million fixed-cost contract and includes \$123 million previously programmed for the I-70 interchanges at U.S. routes 63 and 54.

In November 2024, The Improve 70 Alliance was selected as the best-value proposer for the second Improve I-70 project between Warrenton and Wentzville. This design-build contract is a \$600 million fixed-cost contract and includes funding from previously programmed projects, including work to realign I-70 at the Wentzville area railroad bridge, improve the I-70 and I-64 interchange, widen I-64 to three lanes for eight miles to its connection with I-70 and make interchange improvements in the Wright City area.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025.

The current schedule of each of the eight project segments is available at www.modot.org/improvei70.

Forward 44 studies needs for future improvements

In 2024, MoDOT conducted an environmental study reviewing more than 250 miles of Interstate 44 from the Oklahoma state line to the Franklin County/St. Louis County line. To keep up with traffic demands and to better understand the challenges that exist along the corridor, Missouri's FY2024 budget that was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Mike Parson provided \$20 million of General Revenue funds for an updated I-44 Purpose & Need Study. This is a critical step in preparing for future projects along the interstate. The General Revenue funds also allowed MoDOT to engage the public about the challenges they face along I-44.

I-44 is a vital east-west link across Missouri. It was originally completed in 1966 and has become critical to state and national transportation. Now more than 1.2 million cars and trucks travel I-44 through Missouri each month. The Forward 44 study included gathering public input through a series of in-person and online meetings. More than 1,600 people provided feedback on I-44 improvement needs, with the top three concerns being safety, congestion and freight traffic. As part of the Study, the Forward 44 team gathered and analyzed I-44 data such as traffic volumes, crashes, trends and more. This information, along with the customer feedback, will be used to identify and prioritize future projects along the corridor. The initial study is expected to be completed in early 2025 and will guide MoDOT's decision-making as additional funding becomes available.

Gov. Parson, General Assembly invest in infrastructure

During the 2024 legislative session, with Gov. Mike Parson's support, the Missouri General Assembly continued to make significant investments in Missouri's transportation infrastructure. For the second consecutive year, historic investments were made using General Revenue and bonding to fund projects on Missouri's interstate system. The legislature approved \$577.5 million for the costs to plan, design, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate and repair designated segments of Interstate 44. Substantial investments were also made by the General Assembly using General Revenue and Budget Stabilization Funds to make improvements to Interstate 70 and various other routes, including U.S. 65



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and U.S. 67; conduct environmental studies on future corridor enhancements; and to improve pavement conditions. Non-highway modes of transportation also received legislatively designated funds, with investments being made in passenger rail crossing improvements, airports and waterways.

The Fiscal Year 2025 budget also included an additional \$100 million for investment in Missouri's low-volume rural roads, the third such investment in as many years.

Governor's Rural Routes Program improves low-volume road conditions

Of the more than 10,400 miles of low-volume roads throughout Missouri, 5,200 were deemed ineligible for federal funds to make improvements. In 2022, Gov. Mike Parson recommended and the General Assembly approved \$100 million in General Revenue for MoDOT to invest in the state's low-volume rural roads. Since then, the General Assembly and Gov. Parson have provided an additional \$100 million in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 and \$100 million in fiscal year 2025 to help improve Missouri's low-volume roads in poor condition. The fiscal year 2024 investment allowed MoDOT to identify 147 locations for low-volume improvement bundled into 40 projects on 1,800 miles of road and was completed in November 2024.

The approval of another \$100 million in fiscal year 2025 adds an additional 1,985 miles of roadway slated for treatment to be completed by November 2025. At its completion, this will mark \$300 million invested into Missouri's rural roads with more than 5,400 miles of highway being improved.



Route C in Mercer County is one of the many low-volume routes improved through the Governor's Rural Routes Program.

Motorcycle fatalities drastically increase as helmet use declines

A lack of helmet use when riding or operating a motorcycle continues to be a significant factor in motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries. In August 2020, Missouri's mandatory all-rider helmet law was repealed. The year prior to the repeal, Missouri experienced 11 unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities. By 2023, there were 73 fatalities. Overall motorcyclist fatalities in Missouri increased from 121 in 2019 to 171 in 2023 -- a record high.

However, overall traffic fatalities in Missouri decreased by 6% in 2023 from 2022, which is a small step in the right direction. So far in 2024, additional progress has been made on the safety front. Through Sept. 15, 2024, traffic fatalities were down 9% compared to the same period in 2023.

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MoDOT prepares motorists for safe solar eclipse experience

On April 8, 2024, cities and towns spanning from West Plains to Cape Girardeau, Missouri experienced a total solar eclipse, while the rest of the state experienced a partial viewing. Missouri welcomed large crowds from out of the state and country to attend weekend events leading up to the Monday solar eclipse viewing. To prepare for the increase in travelers, MoDOT warned motorists of the potential for significant traffic impacts and urged spectators to plan ahead to see the eclipse and avoid the extra traffic. The department also shared safe travel tips leading up to the eclipse, advising motorists against parking along the interstate or major highways and taking photos or wearing eclipse glasses while driving, and to watch for increased pedestrian traffic. On the day of the eclipse, Interstate 55 and other main north-south highways in eastern Missouri were crowded with traffic for several hours in the morning heading toward the path of totality. The afternoon had longer lines of returning traffic, but overall no major incidents occurred.

MoDOT mourns loss of fallen worker

On Sept. 24, 2024, MoDOT lost one of its own. Kansas City Senior Maintenance Worker Jay Bone was struck and killed in the line of duty during a flagging operation on Route O in Pettis County. Jay had been employed with MoDOT since 2015. He was survived by his wife, two children and five granddaughters. Jay will be missed by all who knew him.

MoDOT has lost 140 employees in the line of duty since 1932.

New Buck O'Neil Bridge opens to Kansas City traffic

The \$220 million Buck O'Neil/U.S. Hwy 169 Bridge Project celebrated many milestones in 2024. Three blasts demolished the previous existing structure to make room for construction of the new bridge. Throughout the year, crews put the finishing touches on the bridge: The final girders were placed, the last bridge deck was poured and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the project site in September. In late October, the bridge officially opened for approximately 50,000 vehicles a day. The Buck O'Neil Bridge is anticipated to last for 100 years or longer.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Vice Chair Warren Erdman speaks in front of the new Buck O'Neil Bridge to attendees at the bridge's ribbon-cutting ceremony in September.

I-70 Missouri River Bridge near Rocheport opens to traffic

The LCpl. Leon Deraps I-70 Missouri River Bridge near Rocheport reached several important milestones in 2024. Of greatest significance was the opening of the new eastbound bridge to traffic in December 2024.

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This milestone was met after a year of construction on the new eastbound bridge following demolition of the former bridge in late 2023. The concrete girders were completed in early March followed by steel assembly throughout the year. The concrete bridge deck was poured between April and June, and the final girder was placed in September. From fall through the end of the year, crews finished up the concrete leveling process and prepared the final road surface to open to traffic. After the new eastbound bridge opens in December, the final aspects of work will be completed by Summer 2025.

Each of the new bridges can carry three lanes of traffic, matching up to the goals of the Improve I-70 project to expand Interstate 70 to three lanes, each direction, across the state of Missouri on this vital corridor.



The final girder of the new eastbound bridge is set into place in September.

Chester Bridge construction making progress

Construction on the former Chester Bridge over the Mississippi River - now known as the Don Welge Memorial Bridge – continued this year after breaking ground in September 2023. The bridge spans the Mississippi River between Perryville, Missouri and Chester, Illinois via Missouri Route 51/Illinois Route 150. The new bridge will be a three-tower, cable-stayed bridge and will cost approximately \$284 million to complete. This past year, crews excavated the Mississippi riverbank on the Missouri side of the river to prepare for the construction of an embankment for the new roadway. The project has a completion date of December 2026.



Construction continues on the new Don Welge Memorial Bridge.

2024 National Performance Report Card

RANKINGS	
1-10	= A
11-20	= B
21-30	= C
31-40	= D
41-50	= F

Project Management

A

Current Performance = Missouri road and bridge projects were delivered within -0.4 percent of the award amount and 93 percent were delivered on-time.

National Ranking = Not available.

Road Conditions

A

Current Performance = 89 percent major highways (5,555 miles) in good condition. 80 percent of minor highways (18,114) in good condition.

National Ranking = Missouri's highway system ranked 10th in the nation. (*FHWA Highway Statistics 2022*)

B

Administrative Costs

Current Performance = \$2,349 cost per mile

National Ranking = Missouri has the 14th lowest administrative cost per mile.

B

Customer Satisfaction

Current Performance = 68 percent satisfied customers

National Ranking = Missouri trails the highest rated company on the American Customer Satisfaction Index by 17 percent.

B

Infrastructure for Business

Current Performance = No internal measure

National Ranking = A CNBC business study ranks Missouri's infrastructure as the 16th best for business.

D

Congestion (travel time index)

Current Performance = Kansas City: 1.15 St. Louis: 1.14

National Ranking = Out of 101 urban areas, Kansas City ranked 54th and St. Louis ranked at 64th for congested areas in the U.S. (*Urban Mobility Report - 2023*)

D

Number of Fatalities

Current Performance = 991 fatalities

National Ranking = Out of 50 states, Missouri ranked 17th for rural fatalities and 42nd in urban fatalities.

D

Bridge Conditions

Current Performance = 6 percent of Missouri bridges in poor condition by deck area.

National Ranking = Missouri ranked 38th for the percent of bridges in poor condition by deck area. (*FHWA Highway Statistics*)

D

Employee Turnover

Current Performance = 14.24 percent

National Ranking = Not available

F

Revenue

Current Performance = \$61,233 revenue per mile

National Ranking = Missouri has the 48th lowest revenue per mile. (*FHWA Highway Statistics*)

SAFETY
Be Safe

Be Accountable
SERVICE
Be Respectful
Be Inclusive

Be Bold
Be Better
STABILITY
Be One Team
So we can be a
great organization



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